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The *Prunus* Tribe are the first trees to blossom in spring and so numerous are the members that different sorts are in bloom over a period of at least five weeks. Our first Bulletin told of certain single-flowered Japanese Cherries. Their double-flowering brethren will open their flowers in another week when they shall receive due recognition. The Sargent Cherry near the Forest Hills Gate is aglow with ruddy-tinted young leaves and nearby is a shapely tree of *Prunus avium* (the Gean or Mazzard) laden with pure white blossoms. This is a handsome tree of more or less pyramidal habit, growing 60 feet tall, with a trunk, occasionally 6 feet in girth, clothed with polished, chestnut-brown bark. It is a native of Europe and the Sweet Cherries of our orchards are descended from it. There is a double-flowered form (*plena*) which opens its blossoms a week later than the type. In bud the flowers are flushed delicate pink but when fully expanded they are pure white, an inch to an inch and a half across, with about thirty to forty petals lasting long in beauty. It has been known for two centuries, but like many other good trees is all too rarely seen in American gardens.

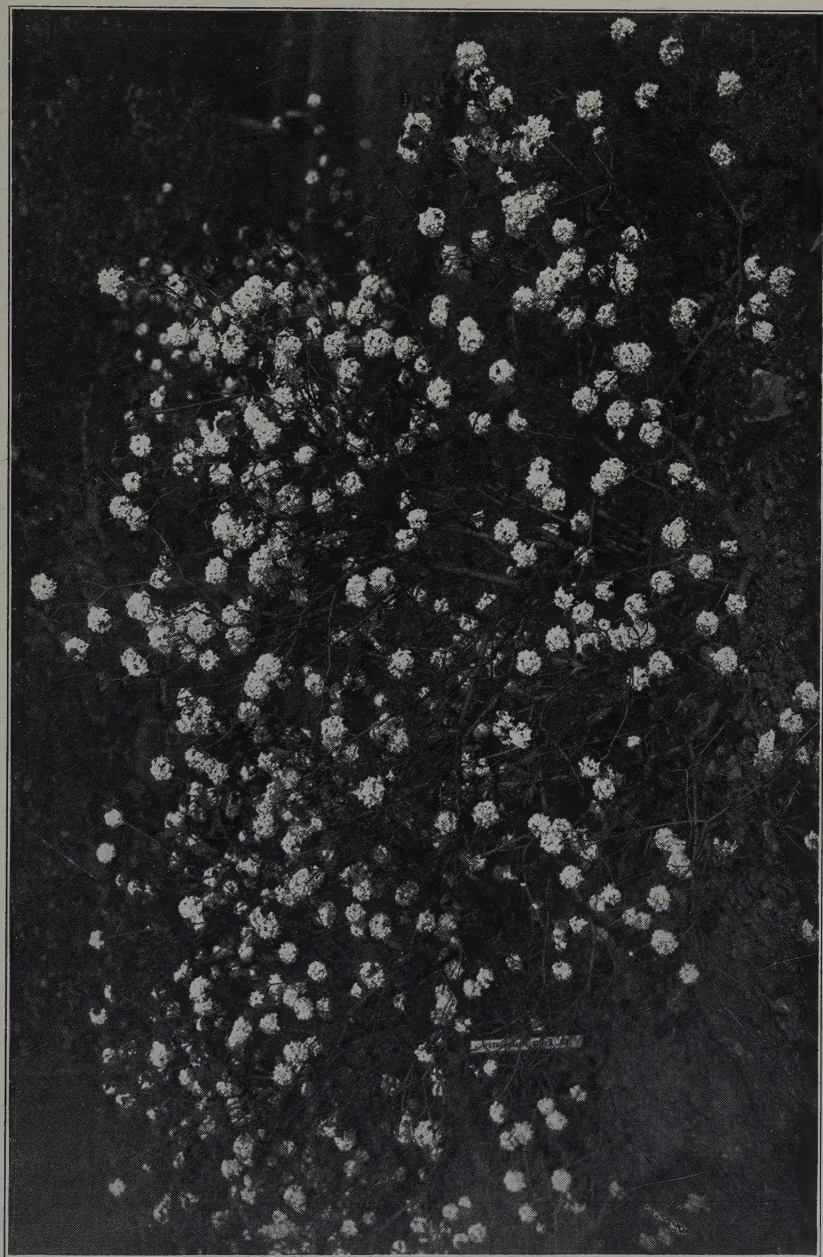
Prunus Cerasus. Later to blossom is *P. Cerasus*, the Sour Cherry, also native of Europe but as an ornamental much inferior to the Gean. There are, however, two double-flowered forms of this Cherry of great value. One known as *plena* has semi-double flowers, white, each one and a half inches across. This is a round-topped tree, seldom more than 25 feet tall, with a thick trunk clothed with rugged, dark gray bark. More double are the flowers on the variety *Rhevi*, often known as *multiflex* or *ranunculiflora*, which is characterized by very double flowers in which two green leafy pistils stand prominently forth. The flowers are of the purest white, an inch and one half across, drooping from long stalks. The tree is a worthy rival of the double-flowered Gean which blossoms two weeks earlier. *Prunus Cerasus* is the parent of the Morello Cherries of our orchards. There are several other forms of the Gean and Sour Cherry but those mentioned are the best and most worthy.

Prunus japonica Nakaii. An old denizen of gardens is *P. japonica*, a twiggy shrub, growing from three to five feet tall, native of the

Orient and found here and there in New England as a naturalized plant. Just within the Forest Hills Gate, on the right, is a bed of *P. japonica Nakaii*, which is the Korean representative of the species. This is flowering freely for the first time and is a pretty little shrub. The branches are twiggy, erect, and clad from bottom to top with fascicles of flowers, tinted pale pink in the bud, pure white when expanded. It differs from the type in the leaves being pubescent on the under side and glabrous, or nearly so, above. The fruit is round, about a quarter of an inch in diameter, dark scarlet and quite attractive. A common plant by the wayside and on bare mountain slopes in Korea, it was introduced into cultivation by the Arboretum through seeds collected by Wilson in 1917. Our experience is that it transplants badly from the open ground and should be grown in pots.

American Plums. The flowers have fallen from the Canadian Plum, *P. nigra*, the first of the American Plums to open blossoms but those of *P. americana* are just expanding. This is a variable plant, widespread from Massachusetts west to Manitoba and south to Georgia, and cultivated since 1768. It is a round-topped tree, seldom exceeding twenty feet in height, with dense intricately placed branches and a wealth of small, white, Hawthorn-like scented blossoms. Quite a number of pomological varieties are in cultivation. This and other tree-species of American Plums are valuable for planting in groups on the edge of woods, in glades or at vantage points some distance removed from the house. More valuable for garden purposes is *Prunus maritima*, the Sand or Beach Plum, a very common plant on Cape Cod and elsewhere along the eastern coast of the United States. This is anything from a bush hugging the ground to a broad-topped shrub ten feet tall. Its abundant pure white blossoms form a pleasing picture in the spring; later fruits, red or purple, round or oblong in shape and from one half to an inch in diameter, crowd the branches. There is also a form (*flava*) with yellow fruits. The Beach Plum is another native plant which has been too much neglected. For planting in sandy places there is of its class nothing better; also it does well in rocky ground. For shore gardens it should be planted in masses and in quantity.

Oriental Quinces. In the Shrub Garden one of the long beds is filled with different varieties of Oriental Quinces which are descended from two distinct species. These are bushes of sprawling habit whose irregularly placed shoots give much character to the plants. The flowers vary from pure white (*nivalis*) to dark fiery crimson (*Simonii*); some are flesh-colored, others shades of pink, red and scarlet. The more robust growing of the two species has long been known as *Cydonia japonica*, abbreviated by the gardening fraternity to plain *japonica*, but its correct name is *Chaenomeles lagenaria*. It is one of the plants long cultivated in the Orient and by Buddhists carried far and wide. Its name notwithstanding, it never knew Japan except as a cultivated plant, its home being central China where Wilson found it wild in 1900. Visitors to Cape Cod and other places in Massachusetts at this season of the year will note here, there, and everywhere, fine bushes or even hedges of the *C. lagenaria*. In Japan, especially in grassy open areas, another Quince is wild in great abundance. This is widely known in



Clove-scented *Viburnum Carlesii*

gardens as *C. Maulei* but its correct name is *C. japonica*. This is less robust than its Chinese sister with twiggy branches hugging the ground and orange-red passing to scarlet flowers. Both species bear ovoid fragrant fruits of no comestible value. Their charm is in the beauty of flower and habit of growth. Old favorites are they, yet it is difficult to procure these plants from nurserymen today. There is no reason why this should be so since they can be raised from seeds and may be easily increased by division, by layering, and by root-cuttings.

Pieris floribunda. This evergreen bush with panicked masses or urn-shaped flowers, and valuable on account of its hardiness, is not flowering so freely this year. More handsome with lustrous foliage and larger flowers is the Japanese *P. japonica*, which unfortunately can be only just kept alive in the Arboretum. The different *Vacciniums* are opening their multitudinous blossoms and with their young tinted foliage are conspicuous, none more so than the Highbush Blueberry (*V. corymbosum*), a feature of swamps and open places everywhere in this part of the world. On drier places it has a rival in the low-growing *V. pennsylvanicum*, an excellent native ground-cover. The Leather-leaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) is also in blossom, each twiggy shoot terminating in a raceme of white urn-shaped flowers. This is a circum-polar plant that might be more freely used in gardens. It can be seen in bloom with other of its relatives in the Shrub Garden. Nearby is twiggy stemmed, pink-blossomed *Andromeda glaucophylla*, with evergreen, ascending, rosemary-like leaves, dark green above and white below. This is a boreal plant found from Newfoundland and Labrador west to Manitoba. Another species, *A. polifolia*, extends from Idaho westward to the Pacific coast and throughout northern Asia into north and central Europe.

Viburnum Carlesii. The first of the *Viburnums* to open its blossoms is the rare *V. fragrans* from China, and this is followed by *V. alnifolium*, the native Moosewood or Hobblebush. This familiar plant is wide-spread in woodlands throughout New England and elsewhere in eastern North America, but is exceedingly difficult to cultivate. In nature it favors moist places but the best plant in the Arboretum is on a dry bank beneath the Birches. The Hobblebush forms its flower clusters in the autumn and cut branches brought into a warm house in late February and March will open their flowers in water. There is a variety (*praecox*) which blossoms about three weeks earlier than the type. Next in order of blooming is the Korean *V. Carlesii*, whose blossoms distil a fragrant scent of cloves which fills the air around. This shrub is now getting properly known in gardens and appreciated on account of its sterling qualities. Unfortunately, plants on their own roots are difficult to come by and those grafted after a few years cease to grow freely and remain stunted in habit and ultimately die. In the *Viburnum* Collection near Centre Street Gate may be seen two fine specimens of Carles' *Viburnum*, which are on their own roots and at the moment covered with conspicuous rounded clusters of flowers, waxy in texture, each pink-tinted in the bud and pure white when fully expanded. Among early-flowering shrubs this is Korea's great gift to our gardens.

E. H. W.